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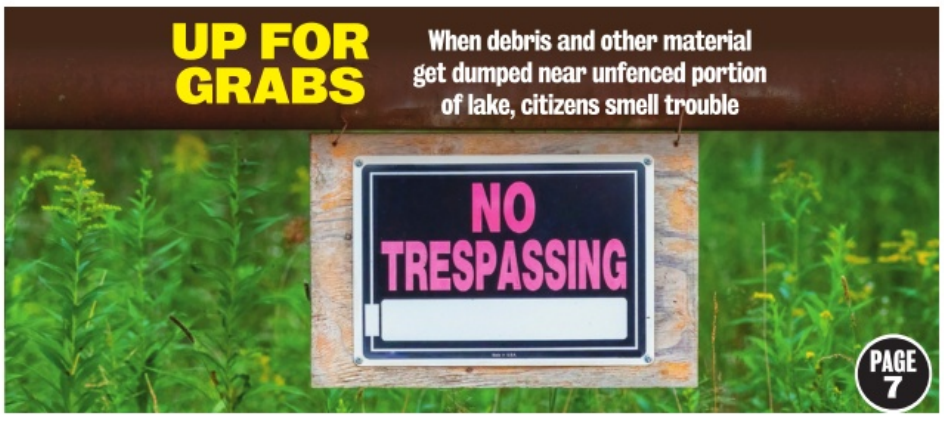
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 32 | Min 29 | Humidity 42% Mainly Clear sky Sensex 75,311 | Nifty 22,795 | Gold 85,745 | Silver 96,750 | Dollar 86.61 | Euro 90.74 | GBP 109.56


UP FOR GRABS
When debris and other material get dumped near unfenced portion of lake, citizens smell trouble
NO TRESPASSING
PAGE 7

Deteriorating roads behind rise in accidents, say experts as police reports indicate that in last five years, over 55,000 deaths were due to bike and car crashes, with most victims being between 25 and 40 years of age

COLLISION COURSE

60,000 families affected by road accidents, with 11,000 fatalities in 2024

| Sridhar.Vivan
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The deteriorating condition of national and state highways, along with inadequate improvements to rural roads to accommodate rising traffic, has resulted in a surge in road accidents. Additionally, several rural bridges damaged by heavy rains remain unrepaired.

> **"For the past two years, heavy rains have left roads riddled with potholes. Even the pre-monsoon repair works have not withstood the downpours, exposing poor-quality road construction**
>
> — PWD official

Alarming rise in road accidents

The poor road conditions are being attributed as a major cause for the spike in the number of accidents in the state. In 2024 alone, more than 60,000 families have been affected by road accidents, with 11,000 fatalities and over 55,000 injuries reported. While 35% of these accidents occurred on national highways, the majority happened on district, taluk, and rural roads.

Looking at data from the past decade, an average of 10,000 people died in road accidents every year in Karnataka. Over the last two years, this figure has risen to 12,000 deaths per year. Police reports indicate that in the last five years, over 55,000 deaths were due to bike and car accidents, with most victims being between the ages of 25 and 40 years.

Over 12,500 km of rural roads damaged

The Karnataka government has acknowledged that excessive rainfall and floods have damaged around 12,500 km of rural roads and 1,106 bridges across the state. In response, patchwork repairs have been carried out, but this has only led to roads filled with potholes rather than providing a lasting solution. In some areas, road authorities have even put up caution signs advising drivers to slow down due to potholes. Meanwhile, some state highways remain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

Should we eat our greens?

Panel to visit B'luru, conduct surveys to ascertain if vegetables grown in and around city are contaminated

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A Joint Committee constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will soon be visiting Bengaluru to carry out field surveys to ascertain if vegetables grown in and around the city are contaminated with heavy metals and pesticides.

The committee, comprising members from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), ICAR Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS)-Bhopal, and the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Bengaluru, is expected to conduct surveys in Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Nelamangala, and Ramanagara where vegetables for Bengaluru are grown using both freshwater and treated/untreated sewage.

Specific vegetable fields for surveys have already been identified in these areas and geo-mapped for sampling. The samples collected by the Joint Committee will be tested for heavy metals and pesticide residues in FSSAI-approved laboratories in Bengaluru.

The survey is being conducted in response to an instruction given by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) after a study conducted by the Environment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Musical legacy

Experience an enchanting evening of classical music at Teen Prahar, a unique concert celebrating the essence of Hindustani tradition.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
When: February 27

02 Comedy night

Experience the Bangalore premiere of Salma Deewani, a Hindi (Dakhni) comedy written, directed, and performed by its creator. After touring India, Sri Lanka, and Dubai, this acclaimed play promises an evening of laughter.
Where: Rangashankara Theatre
When: March 8, 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm

03 Cricket fever

Celebrate the Champions Trophy with an electrifying match-day experience at Daysie MG Road and Daysie RR Nagar.
Where: Daysie, MG Road & RR Nagar
When: February 19 onwards

04 Musical carnival

Experience an electrifying celebration of rhythm as top percussionists from around the world pay tribute to the legendary Ustad Zakir Hussain with a fusion of tradition and innovation.
Where: Prestige Centre of Performing Arts
When: March 1 and 2

05 Beyond the stage

Witness a performance of Ernest Hemingway's classic novella, brought to life on stage. Follow the epic journey of an old fisherman battling the sea and his greatest catch from the outstanding play directed by S Surendranath. **Where: Ranga Shankara When: February 23, 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm**

33 is magic number to make state schools cool

Educationists call for reduction of state SSLC pass marks from 35 to 33 on par with other educational boards amid low enrolment, student migration fears

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Students outside an SSLC exam centre in Bengaluru (file photo)

Schools are now demanding the State Government to bring parity in passing marks for SSLC (Class 10) students by reducing the minimum requirement from 35 to 33 marks, in line with other educational boards.

Shashi Kumar D, General Secretary of KAMS and Convenor of the Karnataka Private School Managements, Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff Coordination Committee (KPMTCC), stated, "Currently, students appearing for the SSLC examinations under the state syllabus must secure a minimum of 35 marks to pass each subject. However, other boards allow students to pass with 33 marks, creating an unfair disparity for state syllabus students. Education stakeholders had previously submitted recommendations in a roundtable discussion report, calling for corrective measures. Despite this, the issue was overlooked, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among students and educators."

> **"Stakeholders had previously submitted recommendations in a roundtable discussion report, calling for corrective measures. Despite this, the issue was overlooked** –Shashi Kumar D, KAMS

Declining enrolment

Kumar said that the stringent pass criteria have reportedly contributed to a rising trend of students shifting from the state syllabus to other educational boards. This migration has led to a decline in student enrolment in Karnataka State Board schools, with many institutions facing the risk of closure. "Moreover, Kannada-medium schools and those emphasising Kannada as a subject have been significantly affected. Despite being aware of these concerns, the government has prioritised structural and curriculum changes at the pre-primary and primary levels rather than addressing this pressing issue."

Minimum of 35 marks mandatory to pass

The response from schools came in the wake of a statement by School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa, who reaffirmed that students must secure a minimum of 35 marks to pass their SSLC exams, with no additional grace marks this year. He noted that last year, webcasting was introduced for the first time, which led to an increase in grace marks and a temporary reduction of the passing criteria from 35 to 25 marks. However, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah opposed this relaxation, resulting in its cancellation this year. "This year, we will follow the 2023 model, where 10% grace marks were provided. Students should not rely on grace marks but focus on preparing for their exams," he advised.

Uninterrupted power supply for students

As exam season begins across the state, the Energy Department has directed Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs) to provide uninterrupted single-phase power supply daily from 6 PM to 6 AM to ensure students can study without disruptions.

1.3 mn to write PU, SSLC exams

The second PUC exams will be held from March 1 to 20, with 7,13,862 students registered, including 6,61,474 new candidates, 34,071 repeaters, and 18,317 private candidates. Of these, 3,35,468 are boys, 3,78,389 are girls, and five belong to the third gender. Exams will be conducted in 1,171 centres, with evaluations at 76 centres by 31,000 evaluators. The SSLC exams, scheduled from March 21 to April 4, have a record 8,96,447 students enrolled, including 38,091 repeaters and 15,539 private candidates. Of these, 4,01,563 are boys and 4,34,884 girls. Students from 15,881 schools will take the exams.

Student leads community change with health initiatives

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Seventeen-year-old Mohamad Ayan, a student of Government Pre-University College, Rajajinagar, has emerged as a young leader in his community through the Dream Accelerator Initiative. This program, aimed at empowering children and youth, has equipped Ayan with skills in leadership, advocacy, and community engagement.

Ayan, from a middle-class family, has faced financial struggles. His father, Mohamad Asif, is an auto driver, and his mother, Mosina, is a homemaker. To support his family, Ayan took up part-time work while balancing his education. However, his life took a significant turn after joining the Dream Accelerator Project Group. Through training sessions on child rights, leadership, and social responsibility, he honed his skills and developed a passion for advocacy. His dedication and ability to connect with people led to his appointment as President of the Children's Group, where he now leads the Children's Council.

Leading a micro project for community welfare

Recognising the importance of health and hygiene in his densely populated neighbourhood, Ayan launched a Micro Project to promote cleanliness and preventive healthcare. His initiatives included: Understanding the importance of health and hygiene in his densely populated neighbourhood, Ayan launched a Micro Project to promote cleanliness and preventive healthcare practices. "The initiatives included conducting sessions for families on sanitation, waste disposal, and handwashing practices. I also led street plays, poster-making activities, and group discussions to spread awareness about health and hygiene. Additionally, I helped friends with their studies to ensure they didn't fall behind," said Ayan.

Sessions were held on sanitation, handwashing practices and more

His efforts brought visible improvements in hygiene practices and encouraged other children to participate in community development. Ayan has also interacted with key stakeholders and local corporators to push for long-term change.

Ayan said, "Leadership is not about power; it's about responsibility. If each of us takes a step towards change, together, we can build a healthier and stronger community". He further added, "I got introduced to various training sessions on child rights, leadership, critical thinking, interpersonal skills, and social responsibility at Multi Activity Centre (MAC). The workshops ignited my confidence, shaping my personality and broadening my vision for the future."

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BBMP, K-RIDE greenlight multi-tier transit solution

Plan on to integrate double-decker flyovers into new Metro corridors & suburban rail project

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After Metro trains, Bengaluru is now set to witness the construction of double-decker flyovers to accommodate both road transport and suburban trains. To tackle Bengaluru's traffic congestion, authorities plan to integrate double-decker flyovers into all newly constructed metro corridors, extending the model to the suburban rail project as well.

As part of the suburban rail network, a 16-km double-decker flyover has been proposed along the Kengeri-Whitefield (Parijata Corridor-3) stretch, specifically between KSR Bengaluru and Kengeri. This section is part of the larger 35-km corridor. According to sources, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd (K-RIDE), which is overseeing the suburban rail project, have given them in-principle approval. BBMP has allocated Rs 350 crore for the initiative.

KRIDE has proposed construction of a suburban rail station opposite KSR Bengaluru City Railway station

"To tackle Bengaluru's traffic congestion, we are integrating double-decker flyovers across new metro and suburban rail corridors. This innovative model optimises urban space, enhances connectivity –BBMP official

Enhanced connectivity

A BBMP official stated that "The double-decker suburban rail corridor will provide seamless connectivity from Majestic to Jagjivanram Nagar, Vijayanagar, Kengeri, NICE Road, and Kempegowda Layout. K-RIDE plans to develop the corridor with a two-tier structure: the first level will feature a two-lane road flyover with 7.5-meter-wide carriageways on each side, while the second level will house suburban rail tracks. The success of the city's first double-decker flyover between Ragigudda and Silk Board where metro trains run on the first level and road traffic on the second has encouraged authorities to expand this model. Travel time on this stretch, which previously took 15-20 minutes, has now been cut to just five minutes."

Elevated corridors across the suburban rail network

The Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project spans 148 km across four corridors, with 61 km of the network featuring elevated sections. Officials have confirmed that all these elevated stretches will incorporate double-decker flyovers to optimise space and improve connectivity. Key elevated sections include the 18.98-km stretch between KSR Bengaluru City and Devanahalli (Corridor-1), the 12-km section from Baiyappanahalli Terminal to Chikkabanavara (Corridor-2), and the 13.29-km route linking Heelalige to Rajanakunte (Corridor-3). Implementing the double-decker design across these planned sections will require additional land acquisition and financial resources, but officials believe it will significantly enhance urban mobility amid Bengaluru's growing traffic congestion.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has confirmed that the upcoming Metro Phase-3 will also incorporate double-decker flyovers. Proposed corridors include a 32.15-km route from JP Nagar Phase 4 to Kempapura and a 12.5-km stretch from Hosahalli to Kadabagere.

According to official estimates, constructing 41 km of double-decker corridors to accommodate both road and metro rail is expected to cost Rs18,000 crore.

Animal lovers protest against apartment complex residents' plan to relocate strays

The dog that bit the boy, kept under observation for 10 days

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Animal activists are opposing the alleged plan of relocating four dogs from Prestige Falcon City premises, situated near Konanakunte in South Bengaluru. Following a reported dog bite, The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Animal Husbandry Department officials recently visited the apartment complex. The animal activists blame the residents who are determined to relocate the dogs that were staying there much before the construction of the apartment complex.

Manjari Chaitanya of South Bengaluru Cares opined that the residents believe that they can do as they please. "They cannot relocate the dogs. I filed a police complaint a few years ago against them for injuring a dog. I oppose relocation of the existing dogs. I want the BBMP Animal Husbandry Department to stop the relocation of the dogs, and ensure food and water to the dogs," she said.

A boy was allegedly bitten by one of the dogs, while playing near the Club House on the apartment complex premises. "The dog is a diabetic and is suffering from an eye disease. Some of the residents have been trying to relocate the dogs. I appeal to parents to advise children not to provoke dogs," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

The dog that bit the boy is reportedly kept under observation for 10 days. Arun Prasad, an animal activist, said that the dog must be released in the same area after the observation period. "There is no norm to relocate the dogs from that apartment complex. As per the Supreme Court order, the authorities have to release dogs at the same place. If they relocate the dogs, it amounts to contempt of court," he said.

Group Captain Vasanth Kumar Bhat, President of Falcon City Apartment Owners Association, said that measures are being taken to find a suitable feeding spot for dogs. "We do not want to relocate the dogs. We want to find a solution to the problem by identifying a suitable feeding spot for dogs," he stated.

BBMP Animal Husbandry Joint Director Dr Chandraiah said that he has advised the residents to provide food and water for the dogs. "We are trying our best to help the residents as well as the dogs," he said.

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Garbage woes
Lottegolahalli

The junction of Outer Ring Road and Devinagara has turned into a garbage dump. Despite complaints, BBMP has not acted, leaving residents to deal with foul smells and health risks.

Waste piles up
Padmanabhanagar

Waste has been piling up on 14th Main, 10th Cross, for weeks due to BBMP's negligence. The dust and dirt are causing pollution, leaving residents frustrated and concerned about hygiene.

Tree in danger
Mosque Road

A heritage tree on Mosque Road (Frazer Town), opposite Punjab National Bank, has been fully concreted by a nearby juice shop owner. Residents urge authorities to act and save the tree.

Food order receipt helps nail police excess

PSI faces disciplinary action for illegal detention of man; food delivery at police station turns key evidence of wrong-doing

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A food order receipt helped uncover a case of illegal detention, leading the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) to recommend disciplinary action against a Police sub-inspector (PSI) in Bengaluru.

The SHRC has recommended the Director General and Inspector General of Police to take action against the sub- inspector for his alleged involvement in illegal detention and another sub- inspector for suppression of offences. While one PSI from HAL police station has been accused of detaining a suspect in a domestic violence case for over 24 hours, the other PSI from Chandra Layout has been fined Rs 1 lakh and faces disciplinary action, prompting the commission to call for departmental action.

The case

In October 2021, PSI Hanumantha, then attached to HAL police station, allegedly detained Nateshwar for questioning in connection with a domestic violence complaint filed by his wife.

Nateshwar was reportedly held in custody for over 24 hours, with his relatives and friends only permitted to meet him upon request.

One of his relatives, Charan Teja, placed an online food order around 10 pm, having 'Dilli Wale Rajma Chawal' delivered to the station. This food order later served as key evidence when Nateshwar filed a complaint with the SHRC, accusing the PSI of illegal detention.

During its investigation, the SHRC verified the extended custody through station records and documentary proof. Based on its findings, the commission has recommended disciplinary action against Hanumantha, who is currently posted at Mahadevapura station, and has directed the state police chief to submit an action-taken report.

Similarly, the SHRC also found that PSI Ravish of Chandra Layout police station deliberately downplayed charges in a harassment case from December 2022 to benefit the accused.

The victim, a woman, had filed a complaint against Shivaraj for harassment. While the FIR initially detailed serious allegations warranting stricter charges, the investigating officer allegedly altered the case by pressing milder charges, ensuring the accused faced minimal consequences. Despite oversight and advisories from his senior officer, PSI Ravish reportedly manipulated the offence.

SHRC verifies extended custody through station records and documentary proof. Based on its findings, panel recommends disciplinary action

Recognising the misconduct, the SHRC has recommended that the police department impose a Rs 1 lakh fine on Ravish, to be deducted from his salary, along with disciplinary action.

Gang used fake debit cards to swindle elderly at ATMs

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A gang targeting elderly individuals at ATM kiosks has been busted. Police had received several complaints about this gang that would use fake debit cards to dupe the elderly. The accused, identified as Nayaz, Sudhanshu, and Rajib, are being interrogated to uncover more details about their operations.

The trio operated in less crowded ATM locations, preying on senior citizens who needed help withdrawing cash. They would gain the victims' trust, take their debit card and PIN, while pretending to assist them, and then swipe a fake card into the machine. When the transaction failed, they would claim a technical glitch and return the fake card while secretly keeping the original. Using the genuine card, they quickly withdrew money and disappeared.

Officials revealed that Sudhanshu and Rajib had been leading a luxurious lifestyle, frequently traveling with their wives using the stolen money. The police have urged the public, especially elderly citizens, to be cautious while using ATMs and avoid sharing their PIN with strangers. Further investigation is underway to determine if more people were involved in the scam.

Car wheel thieves held

Three persons involved in stealing car wheels at night, were arrested by Jayanagar police, who recovered 18 tyres stolen from seven cars, worth Rs 3 lakh.

A resident of Bairasandra, had filed a complaint on February 12. He said that due to a lack of parking near his house, he had parked his car at the BDA Complex in Jayanagar on February 9. Upon returning on February 12, he discovered that the wheels of his car had been stolen. Following the complaint, the police launched an extensive investigation and apprehended three suspects near Kottanoor Dinne water tank on February 15. The accused confessed to stealing and selling the tyres in different parts of Bengaluru.

FILM
PAGE 13

Strength of a woman

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THE SUNDAY READ

2025: A space odyssey

Cosmic phenomena such as Parade of Planets have got Bengaluru hooked to sky gazing

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While learning nursery rhymes, four-year-old Sushravas always wondered how the twinkling stars in the faraway sky would actually look from nearby. His curiosity was satisfied when his father Anirvachan organised Sky Gazing for Sushravas and some friends and family members in their Kanakpura Road apartment complex.

"My son just loved gazing at the sky. He was really fascinated seeing a few planets and was always full of curiosity about the Sun Family. To satisfy his curiosity and make it more special I connected to a friend and organised sky gazing for our family and friends a couple of weeks back," said Anirvachan.

Sharing Sushravas' experience, he added: "My son absolutely enjoyed the sky gazing session, especially Jupiter with a few of its Moons!" "For next few days we only discussed the planets, stars and our Moon Luna."

Like Sushravas and Anirvachan, the present celestial phenomenon 'Parade of Planets', where six planets- Mercury, Saturn, Venus, Uranus, Jupiter and Mars -- are aligned in a line in the skies, have fascinated hundreds of Bengalureans to explore the wonderful Sun family. The celestial saga, which began on January 21 has created a euphoria of sky gazing across all age groups. The next Parade of Planets is from February 24-28.

After seeing a rise in demand to organise sky gazing events, organisations such as the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Koramangala, and several ed-tech firms, are frequently organizing such events for space enthusiasts in Bengaluru, Mysuru and other towns of Karnataka.

"This cosmic phenomenon- Parade of Planets-has created quite a buzz across Bengaluru and other cities," said Nikhitha Chadde, Co- founder and Director, GeneX Space, an Ed-tech company, which conducts space education programs.

"For me as a space educator, the enthusiasm I see in the young and old generation to gaze at the stars, planets and other celestial bodies is really overwhelming. People from all walks of life have been coming together to watch this spectacle, proving that the fascination with the cosmos transcends age and background," said Chadde.

About the present euphoria due to 'Parade of Planets', Chadde said that they have catered to over 5,000 participants in Bengaluru alone since January 21.

"This includes schools, apartment complexes and also single family units. In fact, sky gazing events have been well received as party themes for birthdays and small friends and family get-togethers," she added.

Dr Anita Krishnan, a senior ENT specialist, who recently organised one such get-together on the terrace of her villa, for a few close friends and family says, "It was a first time sky gazing experience for me. I was really fascinated to see Jupiter the most. Maybe it was the size and clarity of this huge planet, in spite of it being eons away from the Earth and also its mythical allure of influencing high learning and academic prowess, was just overwhelming."

The experience was overwhelming for Sagarika Sen, an entrepreneur, who recently enjoyed sky gazing from the terrace of her apartment too. "This was my first time sky gazing and it was truly a wonderful experience. Looking at the Moon surface through the telescope was mesmerising. Its craters and textures appeared incredibly crisp and detailed. Also seeing Jupiter along with a few of its moons was a highlight of the sky gazing experience for me," Sen said.

Science of space

Prof. Annapurni Subramaniam, director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, had a di erent perspective to share. Explaining the facts about this particular Space phenomenon, Prof. Subramaniam said, "The planets do appear in a line during the Parade of Planets, but it should be noted that they are actually not in a line along the line of sight, but in a line across the sky from West to East, along the ecliptic."

She further said that Venus, Jupiter and Mars are always visible with naked eyes, but this event should be considered as an occasion for educating the common people about such special celestial extravaganzas.

In order to educate the young and old generation equally, the Institute of Astrophysics too has conducted 5 sky gazing events in Bengaluru and four in Mysuru since mid-January. "All the events have been very well received across all the age groups," she added.

IIA have hosted children as young as 4-5 years old and even a 100-year-old gentleman, who came sky gazing to their Koramangala premises along with his wife.

"Seeing the planets through the telescopes set up in the premises of IIA along with an in-depth explanation of the event given by Prof. Subramaniam, especially seeing the Rings of Saturn was truly out of the world experience," said Ashish Patel, a Space enthusiast.

For many educators, this also is an opportunity for children to learn new aspects.

Dharini Srinivasan, founder and principal, Disha Montessori says: "Such events provide a platform for young children to learn about Planets, stars, constellations and other celestial bodies in a practical way. It can help build interest amongst the children to study what lies in the Galaxy that they are part of. It's an important way to get our young generation to understand that we all coexist and are therefore responsible for our actions."

Explaining the importance of getting the younger generation involved in sky gazing to study the celestial bodies, Sathish Aryabhata, Director, Aryabhata Mobile Planetarium LLP, says, "It is very important to realise what we are blessed with is very special. Our planet Earth might not be as mighty as Jupiter or as beautiful as Saturn but it's the only planet which can host life and with all the latest technologies, we being on the Earth are able to explore other planets of the Sun Family and space too."

7 IN A ROW

Get ready to watch seven planets aligning in the sky from Feb 24-28. Saturn, Mercury, Neptune, Venus, Uranus, Jupiter and Mars will appear to form an arch in the sky. If one misses this chance then the next parade is expected only in late 2028.

"Such events help build interest among kids to study what lies in the Galaxy that they are part of. It's a way to get the young generation to understand that we all coexist and are responsible for our actions

Scene is set for land grab at lake land

Dumping of debris, other material at unfenced portion of Hadosiddapura Lake land has raised alarm

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The Miyawaki forest patch near the lake

The vacant land near Hadosiddapura Lake

The residents and lake activists of Kodathi and Halanayakanahalli have been running pillar to post to prevent what they believe will turn out to be a land grab at Hadosiddapura Lake premises. The lake spreads to 36 acres and 30 guntas in Hadosiddapura village limits and two acres and 14 guntas in Kodathi village limits. Citizens fear that the land mafia have an eye on about three acres of this prime land.

Lake activists have complained that a portion of the lake land has become vulnerable to encroachment as it is not fenced off. They said that some volunteers have developed a Miyawaki forest in between the lake land and the water body. It was suspicious activity that caught the attention of these citizens.

"Some builders have started dumping debris and other material on the lake land. As there is no fence, the land may become an easy target for the land mafia. The authorities concerned must survey the lake land and fence it. Had the NGO developed the Miyawaki forest on the edge of the lake land, it would have served as a boundary for the lake land," said Chetan Gopal, a member of Friends of Lakes.

Expressing a similar opinion, Ranjith Mathew, another resident of the area, said that he too has come across some people dumping debris on the lake land. "I am very happy with the proactive attitude of Halanayakanahalli Panchayat members. They are very cooperative with us.

They took measures to clear debris. Now the authorities must survey the lake land immediately and fence it to prevent encroachment," said Mathew.

When contacted, Kodathi Panchayat Development Officer said the lake does not come under the panchayat's jurisdiction. "Many people may mistake that a portion of the lake comes under Kodathi Panchayat's jurisdiction," he said.

"Some builders have started dumping debris and other material on the lake land. As there is no fence, the land may become an easy target for the land mafia...

On his part, the Halanayakanahalli Panchayat Development Officer said that the panchayat has sanctioned Rs 4.50 lakh for the development of the lake bund. "We are yet to prepare the plan to fence the lake. We may need Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh to fence the lake land," he said.

When contacted, Savitha Babu Reddy, president, Halanayakanahalli Gram Panchayat, said that she would take measures to protect the lake land. "We will take the assistance of the panchayat officers to verify the boundaries of the lake before fencing it," she said.

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2-wheeler thief arrested; vehicles worth Rs 1.65 lakh recovered

A man involved in multiple two-wheeler thefts was arrested and four stolen vehicles worth Rs 1.65 lakh were recovered.

A resident of 1st B Main Road had filed a complaint at Jayanagar Police Station on February 12, stating that his two-wheeler, parked outside his home on February 11, had been stolen by unknown persons. Based on the complaint, the Jayanagar Police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Through informants and other leads, the police traced the accused near his residence on February 14, and took him into custody along with the stolen two-wheeler. Upon interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing two-wheelers from different parts of Bengaluru. He was presented before the court on the same day and remanded to four days of police custody. The police discovered three more stolen vehicles parked in an empty plot near Brindavan Park. **BMB**

1,403 landslides in Ghats districts in 19 years: Report

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Over the last 19 years, Karnataka experienced more than 1,403 landslides in its Western Ghats districts leading to 98 deaths, according to a report by the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Karnataka.

Out of these, 609 landslide events occurred in Uttara Kannada district, 260 in Chikkamagalur, 188 in Kodagu, and 166 in Dakshina Kannada. Maximum number of deaths, 53, was recorded in Kodagu, followed by 34 deaths in Uttara Kannada and 11 in Dakshina Kannada.

The report also highlights that 482.67 sq km of Karnataka's total geographical area across eight districts are susceptible to landslides. Kodagu is the most vulnerable with a little over 96% of its total geographical area, followed by Dakshina Kannada (94.9% of the total area is susceptible), and Uttara Kannada (81.53%).

Experts say with an increase in unregulated tourism and development activities in the fragile Western Ghats, these events are expected to increase in the coming days.

"Unregulated and illegal tourism activities are the prime cause behind such incidents in these districts, especially Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru. As land conversion permissions come primarily from Revenue and Tourism, these departments should keep a strict vigil on such activities and come down heavily on offenders in case any rules are violated.

However, no such checks are happening regularly. Thousands of illegal homestays have come up in Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru, impacting forest areas," said a wildlife conservationist from Chikkamagaluru.

"Many large infrastructure projects, including reservoirs, dams, highways, railway lines, etc., have come up in eco-sensitive regions of Western Ghats.

Most of these projects are ill-conceived and that cause more harm than provide benefits to the society. Unless such projects are trashed, landslide events are expected to continue in the Western Ghats," said a city-based wildlife activist.

Experts also point to large-scale encroachment of forest land coupled with a slow eviction rate as probable reasons for landslides in these areas.

As of March 2024, the three forest divisions in the state with the highest extent of forest area under encroachment are Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada.

The total encroached forest area in Shivamogga division is 83,817 acres, in Chikkamagaluru, it is 31,998.66 acres, and in the Canara division (Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada) 29,881.38 acres have been encroached. However, the eviction progress in these regions has been painfully slow.

Between April and September 2024, while eviction was carried out on 570 acres in Shivamogga, less than 125 acres were freed from encroachment in Chikkamagaluru.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

United they stand

Worker ants get on with the day's task against the rising sun, displaying team work and power of togetherness to make this world a beautiful place to live

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Hanish Sharma**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Top-ranked chess player Magnus Carlsen is turning his controversial denim into some greens — for charity. The Norwegian chess grandmaster announced this week that he is auctioning off the Italian luxury brand jeans that started a dress code dispute at December's World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships.Chess fanatics and #JeansGate followers now have the chance to own Carlsen's pair of size 32 regular fit Corneliani jeans. The auction is scheduled to end March 1. Listed as pre-owned but in "good" condition on eBay, the pants' highest offer was $8,200 as of the morning of Feb. 21.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Elon Musk glorifies China's growth, DeepSeek on podcast? No, Musk's voice is AI-generated

A video has been circulating, claiming to show US businessman Elon Musk speaking highly of China

Newsmeter.in

sdsdXerum quidelis et voluptin restissim latem nonse lautatem ius nihillatur, simporum dolor

A video of American businessman Elon Musk—popular now for the role he played in winning Donald Trump the US presidential seat—has been circulating on social media. In the clip, Musk appears on screen for the first 0.9 seconds, followed by an alleged audio recording in which he criticises Britain and speaks on China's growth.

In the audio, he is allegedly heard saying, "It is not really about history; it is about reality. Britain fought nearly everyone but is not hated anymore. China, on the other hand, is simply minding its own business, growing rapidly, and yet, suddenly everyone is mad. Why? Because when China grows, it messes with other people's profits. Notifications Powered by iZooto Take Artificial Intelligence, China's DeepSeek model blew up in days on Wall Street, sending markets into total panic mode. Microsoft dropped 3.5 per cent, Amazon fell 0.24 per cent in the first hour, Oracle sank 8 per cent and Nvidia crashed a massive 17 per cent. In just one day, 589 billion dollars in market value vanished—the biggest single-day market wipeout ever."

Musk is also allegedly heard speaking about manufacturing, claiming that China went from buying tunnel machines and pen tips to making them better and cheaper, crushing German and Western firms. Comparing India's growth and hitting at PM Modi, an X user shared the video and wrote, "Watch this and you will understand how Modi wasted 11 years of India even after getting an absolute majority. You need education and vision, setting aside caste, creed and Revadi. Jai Hind."

Fact Check

NewsMeter found that the claim is false, as the audio resembling Musk's voice is AI-generated. We conducted a keyword search for statements by Musk regarding China's growth and criticism of Britain but found no relevant reports. However, in January 2025, Musk expressed scepticism about DeepSeek's reported capabilities, suggesting that the company might have more Nvidia GPUs than publicly disclosed.

Upon a reverse image search of keyframes from the viral video featuring Elon Musk, we found an eight-hour-long podcast published on Lex Fridman's YouTube channel on August 2, 2024, titled 'Elon Musk: Neuralink and the Future of Humanity.' The podcast featured a conversation with Elon Musk, DJ Seo, Matthew MacDougall, Bliss Chapman, and Noland Arbaugh about Neuralink and the future of humanity. Musk appeared in the first one-and-a-half hours of the podcast, wearing the same T-shirt. The surroundings and background are also identical to those in the viral video.

Musk discussed topics such as telepathy, the power of the human mind, the future of Neuralink, ayahuasca, merging with AI, xAI, Optimus, his approach to problem-solving, history and geopolitics, lessons of history, the collapse of empires, time, aliens and curiosity.

However, we found no mention of him speaking about China, Britain or DeepSeek at any point. Also, the podcast was released on August 2, 2024, which predates the release of DeepSeek on January 20, 2025.

In this podcast, using its transcript as the reference, we found that Musk spoke about China but did not criticise Britain in comparison to China, nor did he mention DeepSeek. He discussed global power dynamics, drawing parallels between China's economic rise and historical cases where dominant powers clashed with emerging ones, referencing the Thucydides Trap. Musk warned that China's economy could grow to be two or three times larger than that of the United States, posing a significant challenge to the existing global order.

However, where did the audio come from?

We extracted the audio from the viral clip and analysed it using AI detection tools. The Hiya Deepfake Voice Detector rated the sample as highly likely to be a deepfake, giving it an authenticity score of just 1 out of 100. Similarly, Hive Moderation assessed the audio as likely AI-generated, assigning it an aggregate confidence score of 99.9 per cent.

The story was originally published by Thip Media (https://newsmeter.in/ai-deepfake/elon-musk-glorifies-chinas-growth-deepseek-on-podcast-no-musks-voice-is-ai-generated-743996) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.

Major road upgrades on the cards

Development of 227 roads aimed at being able to accommodate growing number of vehicles in city

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At several stretches roads are crying out for an upgrade

The Bangalore Bruhat Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is set to upgrade 227 roads spanning 337 km in the city, as traffic congestion continues to rise. The move comes in response to the growing population and the addition of over 1.04 lakh vehicles to the city's roads. The increased vehicle count necessitates improving road infrastructure to ensure smooth traffic flow.

According to data, East Zone has the longest total road length of 317.85 km, with 59.26 km of roads being upgraded from the current 358.59 km. The South Zone follows with a total road length of 244.30 km, of which 26.20 km are being upgraded from the current 218.10 km. The RR Nagar Zone comes next, with a total road length of 261.75 km, with 45.30 km being upgraded from the current 216.45 km.

The Bommanahalli Zone has a total road length of 174.63 km, with 39.93 km of roads being upgraded from the current 134.70 km. The West Zone has a total road length of 168.14 km, with 34.73 km being upgraded from the current 133.41 km. The Yelahanka Zone has a total road length of 146.51 km, with 50.37 km being upgraded from the current 96.14 km. Finally, the KR Puram Zone has the shortest total road length of 83.18 km, with 10.12 km being upgraded from the current 73.06 km.

A BBMP official said, "As part of the plan, the BBMP has identified key roads for upgradation, focusing on both arterial and sub-arterial roads. These roads, previously managed at the sector level, will now fall under a more extensive authority to provide better facilities and improve traffic conditions. A joint inspection team, led by executive engineers and divisional engineers, was set up to identify roads for upgradation based on recommendations from the team."

Bengaluru currently has a total road network of 12,878.84 km, with 1,344.84 km dedicated to arterial and sub-arterial roads. The addition of 337 km of upgraded ward roads will increase the total length of major roads to 1,682.10 km. "The benefits of this upgradation are substantial, with the BBMP allocating more funds for major roads compared to ward roads. Additionally, the state government has promised special funding for the development and infrastructure improvements of Bengaluru's key roads," an official said.

Language row sparks tension in K'taka border after group attacks conductor for asking them to speak in Kannada

Tension prevailed in the border district of Belagavi on Saturday following the assault on an RTC bus conductor by a group of people for not replying to them in Marathi.

Kannada organisations staged a protest and blocked the Belagavi-Bagalkot road, demanding that the police take action against those who attacked the bus conductor.

The assault had taken place on Friday in Belagavi district. The police forcibly removed Kannada activists, including women, who were protesting, and took them to an undisclosed location. Reacting to the incident, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy stated in Bengaluru on Saturday that those living in Karnataka should learn Kannada. He added that while people can speak their mother tongue, Marathi, they must also speak Kannada in Karnataka.

"All parties should condemn such incidents," he said. The assault took place near the Balekundri region on an RTC bus traveling from CBT to Sulebhavi.

The conductor, Mahadevappa Hukkeri, had questioned a boy traveling with a free ticket meant for women. During the argument, the boy responded in Marathi, and the conductor asked him to speak in Kannada.

Following this, the girl accompanying the boy and a group of other boys assaulted the conductor, insisting that he should learn Marathi.

4 arrested

Four people have been arrested for allegedly assaulting the conductor. The incident occurred on Friday on the outskirts of the district headquarters town of Belagavi bordering Maharashtra, they said. The conductor has also been booked under the POCSO Act, police said.

With tears in his eyes, the 51-year-old conductor Mahadevappa Mallappa Hukkeri on Friday told reporters that a girl who boarded the bus with her male friend at Sulebhavi village spoke in Marathi.

Hukkeri said he told her that he did not know Marathi and asked her to speak in Kannada.

"When I said I don't know Marathi, the girl abused me saying that I must learn Marathi. Suddenly a large number of people gathered and assaulted me on my head and all over the body," the conductor said.

The injured bus conductor was admitted to the Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, police said adding he got minor injuries and is out of danger.

"A case was registered and we have arrested four people in connection with the assault on the conductor and based on a counter complaint lodged by the girl, who is 14-year-old, a case was registered against the conductor under Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for allegedly using derogatory remarks against her," a senior police officer said.

"No arrest has been made yet in connection with the POCSO Act case. We need to investigate, and look into the allegations and accordingly further action will be taken," he said. **Agencies**

Maharashtra suspends state bus services to K'taka

Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Saturday ordered the suspension of the state transport buses to Karnataka after an MSRTC bus was attacked.

Sarnaik said the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus, which was plying from Bengaluru to Mumbai, was attacked in Chitradurga in Karnataka on Friday night by pro-Kannada activists.

They also blackened the face of driver Bhaskar Jadhav and assaulted him, the minister said.

Sarnaik said the bus services won't be resumed unless the Karnataka government makes its stand clear on the issue. **PTI**

Amanjot leads the way for MI

All-rounder Amanjot Kaur's unbeaten 34 off 27 studded with two sixes and as many fours guided Mumbai Indians to a thrilling last-over win over defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 clash on Friday.

Amanjot's contributions didn't go unnoticed as she bagged the Player of the Match accolade after returning with figures of 3-22 in three overs. Former India captain Mithali Raj praised the youngster for showing confidence and composure under pressure and guiding MI over the line.

"When you have a set batter like Amanjot Kaur, who has done so well - hitting those two sixes, it gives confidence. And having a young 16-year-old out there, what a platform for Kamalini Gunalan to come in and score the winning runs in her first season with Mumbai Indians," Mithali said on Amul Cricket Live, JioHotstar.

"I think she backed herself today. As someone who spent time in the middle alongside Harmanpreet Kaur, she has watched her captain play big shots and taken a page from that. She wanted to finish it for Mumbai Indians," she added.

Dravid returns to play for 3rd-division club alongside younger son Anvay

Legendary Indian cricketer Rahul Dravid, who last played a professional cricket match back in 2014 and concluded his coaching stint with Team India, made his return to the sport to take part in 2024-25 Sri Nassur Memorial Shield For Group I-III Division tournament along with his son Anvay.

Dravid played for Vijaya Cricket Club against Young Lions Club at the SLS Kreedangana ground during this 50-over competition, walking out to bat at number six in the first innings, with his son batting at the other end. This was a rare instance of a father son duo playing a game of cricket together, as per Wisden.

Dravid made 10 runs in eight balls before being dismissed by AR Ullas, with his brief knock having a boundary. He contributed a partnership of 15 runs in 17 balls with his son, who scored 58 in 60 balls, with eight fours. His teammate Swapnil Yelave top scored with 107 in 50 balls, with the club making 345/7 in their 50 overs.

This is not the first time Dravid has featured in a club game after retiring. Following his international retirement in 2013, a couple of months after pulling down curtains on his international career, Dravid went back to his roots, donning the colours of his childhood club, the Banglalore United Cricket Club. He made a crucial century for the team and prevented their relegation from the competition.

Dravid also has his elder son Samit, who was picked for India Under-19 squad last August. He also featured in last year's Maharaja T20 Trophy last season, scoring 82 runs in seven matches. **ANI**

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Study had highlighted presence of metals, pesticides in veggies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Management Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) highlighted the issue. EMPRI's study which was published in 2023 analyzed 400 samples of 10 vegetables and found nickel, lead, cadmium, and iron levels higher than prescribed limits by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Under the survey, expected to take place in the last week of February, different vegetable samples will be collected randomly from local markets in and around Bengaluru following the protocols of FSSAI.

The committee will also conduct soil profiling up to 90 cm to 1 m depth on all identified fields. Soil samples and water samples (groundwater, surface water, treated sewage water) will also be analyzed for heavy metals and pesticide residues.

Based on the analysis results, a report of the Joint Committee will be prepared by comparing the results with relevant standards and findings will then be presented before the NGT southern zone within the next four months after receipt of analysis results from the laboratories.

Toxic nature

The decision to conduct a field study was taken after the first meeting of the Joint Committee that was held on 23 January 2025.

Notably, the Joint Committee was formulated by CPCB in October 2024 to study the presence of toxic compounds and heavy metals in Bengaluru's vegetables.

This was after a suo-motu case was taken up by the principal bench of NGT based on news items highlighting the findings of the study conducted by EMPRI.

The study highlighted that vegetables cultivated with wastewater had presence of heavy metals. The concentration of Iron and Cadmium in coriander and spinach, and Nickel in vegetables exceeded the permissible limits set by FAO.

"CPCB is directed to ascertain the correct ground situation and also duly examine the report of EMPRI and submit the factual status as also factual action taken report before the Southern Zone Bench of the Tribunal.

Let the samples of vegetables be collected and analyzed for the individual heavy metals and pesticides parameters in the Central Laboratory of CPCB, Delhi as per standard methods and let their report be furnished," NGT principal bench had issued the directions.

'Like it or not, BBMP polls should be held in May'

Karnataka Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Saturday said that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elections must be held this May, "whether we like it or not." The city has not had an elected municipal council since September 2020.

"This September, it will be five years without BBMP elections," said Reddy, the senior-most MLA in Bengaluru, who represents BTM Layout, when asked about the delay in holding the elections.

Noting that during S M Krishna's tenure as Chief Minister, elections were held on time in 2001, and again under the previous Siddaramaiah government in 2015, he said, "When the BJP was in power in 2008, elections were delayed by 2.8 years. Similarly, the BJP government did not hold polls in 2020."

Defending the Congress government regarding the delay, Reddy said that the postponement is due to the government's plans to create a Greater Bengaluru Authority. **PTI**

Roads to perdition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in a state of complete disrepair, with no repair work initiated yet.

Monsoon worsens road conditions

A PWD official said, "For the past two years, heavy rains have left roads riddled with potholes. Even the pre-monsoon repair works have not withstood the downpours, exposing poor-quality road construction. In 2023, the government upgraded 16,000 km of rural roads to district highways and 9,601 km of district highways to state highways. However, the condition of roads continues to deteriorate year after year, testing the patience of commuters. With monsoon just four months away, there is an urgent need to not only repair roads but also construct new ones to prevent further accidents."

Two-wheeler riders at higher risk

Among road accident fatalities, nearly 60% are two-wheeler riders and pedestrians. Data shows that 32 people lose their lives daily due to road accidents in the state, while 150 suffer injuries. Among the injured, 10% are left with permanent disabilities, and 15% suffer partial disabilities.

Bengaluru sees slight dip in fatal accidents

In 2023, Bengaluru recorded 882 major accidents, resulting in 910 deaths. However, in 2024, the number of major accidents dropped to 824, with 845 deaths reported. Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi stated that 90% of road repair work under the Public Works Department (PWD) has been completed. However, several bridges damaged by floods are yet to be repaired, which the government plans to address in the upcoming budget. He assured that any pending road repairs brought to the department's attention will be completed soon.

Accident data

In Karnataka, road accidents have been alarmingly high across different types of roads. National highways recorded 19,226 accidents, resulting in 3,789 fatalities, while state highways saw 14,130 accidents, leading to 3,037 deaths. Rural roads, which are often in poor condition, witnessed the highest number of incidents, with 21,577 accidents and 4,249 fatalities. In total, the state reported 54,933 accidents, claiming 11,075 lives, highlighting the urgent need for better road infrastructure and stricter safety measures.

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I, Anand Kumar Jain R/o No 52,Kings Enclave,4th Main,4th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560018 have changed my minor son's name from Ikshita To Ikshith Anand Kumar Jain for all purposes.

I, Anjali R/o 302, 3rd Floor, Infants Anugraha, Kalkere Main Road, Opposite Sunshine School, Silver Clouds Layout, Horamavu, Bangalore 560043, have changed my name to Anjali Choudhary.

I REHAN PASHA TANVEER PASHA S/o Tanveer Pasha R/o No 114/b 6th Crs Devaraj Urs Nagar Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to REHAN PASHA for all Purposes

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W/O NOORULLA KHAN DAWOOD

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Death: 18.04.2011

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FAIZA BEGUM NOORULLA

HEALTH TIP: Stress, anxiety, and even boredom can trigger cravings, particularly for comfort foods such as sweets or fried snacks

All you need to know about...

Exercise for elderly

Just 5 mins
Just five minutes of exercise, that is moderate to vigorous, daily can help the elderly stave off the risk of dementia, according to a study.

Lowers risk of dementia
Researchers from the Johns Hopkins University in the US showed that engaging in as little as 35 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week, compared to zero minutes per week, can lower the risk of developing dementia by 41 per cent.
The study published in the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association showed the benefits of exercise even among frail older adults -- those at elevated risk of adverse health outcomes.
"Our findings suggest that increasing physical activity, even as little as five minutes per day, can reduce dementia risk in older adults," said lead author Amal Wanigatunga, Assistant Professor in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School's Department of Epidemiology.

Some better than nothing
"This adds to a growing body of evidence that some exercise is better than nothing, especially with regard to an aging-related disorder that affects the brain that currently has no cure," Wanigatunga added.
The study, based on a dataset covering nearly 90,000 adults, aged 50 and above in the UK, showed that dementia risks were 60 per cent lower in participants in the 35 to 69.9 minutes of physical activity per week category.
People engaging in exercise from 70 to 139.9 minutes per week had a 63 per cent lower risk; while those in the 140 and over minutes per week category had a 69 per cent lower risk. —IANS

Hearty meal

3-course dinner cooked to perfection for a special evening

LOVE WITH CHOCOLATE AND BERRY

INGREDIENTS
- Dark chocolate (64 %) – 200 g
- Cream - 100 ml
- Semi whipped cream (Elle & vire) – 50 g
- Chocolate chips – 50 g
- Chocolate cookies - 2 no's
- Strawberry fresh – 25 g
- Blue berry – 25 g
- Raspberry – 25 g

METHOD
- In a heavy bottom pan heat the cream in a slow flame.
- Once it reaches boiling stem remove from heat and add 64% dark chocolate and mix well. Let it cool
- In a mixing bowl place the chocolate cream mixer and add semi whipped cream and mix gently without lambs (chocolate cream)
- In a serving portion glass (white wine glass) place crushed cookie crumb, add chocolate chips, and pour a layer of chocolate cream.
- Add some slices of berries, repeat the same for one more time.
- Garnish with fresh berries as per your imagination.
- Chill for 4 hours and then chill. Best time to serve – Dinner

PAN-FRIED NOODLES WITH SOYA GINGER SAUCE

INGREDIENTS
- Boil Noodles -200gm
- Oil-50 ml
- Broccoli -50gm
- Carrot-10gm
- Beans-10gm
- Mushroom-10gm
- Chinese cabbage -20gm
- Bok choy -20gm
- Baby Corn -10gm
- Spring onion-10gm
- Chop onion-10gm
- Ginger -10gm
- Light soya-10ml
- Salt -5gm • White pepper -5gm • Water -50ml
- Corn flour -30gm

METHOD
- In a fry pan, add oil and heat for 2 minutes.
- Add noodles and fry for 3 min and keep it warm
- In another pan add all the vegetables (chopped) and fry it for 2 minutes
- Add all spice powders, soya and salt
- Mix corn flour and water, add the mix into the vegetable mix, and cook until it gets thick as gravy.
- In a serving bowl place the noodles, pour the ginger sauce on top of the noodles, garnish with spring onion, and serve hot.

HONEY CHILLI LOTUS STEM

INGREDIENTS

Fry
- Thai Lotus Stem -250 gm
- Corn flour -70 gm
- Refined flour -50gm
- Salt- 2 gm
- White pepper -2 gm

Sause
- Chop onion -20gm
- Chop garlic -15gm
- Chop Ginger -15gm
- Chop onion-15gm
- Basil-2 leaf
- Dry chilly -2pis
- Salt- 3 gm
- White pepper -3 gm
- Honey -20gm
- Red chili sauce -15gm
- Tomato Ketchup -20gm
- Oil -20gm
- Light soya - 10ml

Garnish
- Spring onion- 10gm
- Sesame seed -10gm

METHOD
- In a mixing bowl place the sliced lotus stem. Add rest all fry ingredients and sprinkle some water to help the entire ingredient to cover the lotus stem.
- Heat the oil and fry all the stem till it crisp like potato chips
- In a fry pan add oil, add vegetables, cook for 2 minutes, and add all spice powder and sauces and honey. Cook the mixer till it reaches thin gravy consistency.
- Add the lotus stem chips and statue until sauce cote all over the stems.
- In a serving bowl place and garnish with spring onion and sesame and serve hot.

Recipes by Chef Ho Chi Ming, Executive Chef, Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel

 # Elnaaz steps into Hollywood
Actress Elnaaz Norouzi is all set to make her mark in Hollywood with her next "Hotel Tehran". She will be seen starring alongside Liam Neeson and Zachary Levi

STRENGTH OF A WOMAN

Richa Chadha shares glimpses on her fitness journey post motherhood

Actor Richa Chadha, who welcomed her daughter Zuneyra Ida Fazal last year, opens up about getting back to her fitness routine.

Richa loves motherhood but sometimes feels the need to reconnect with herself. After welcoming her daughter, Zuneyra Ida Fazal, in July last year, she is now getting ready to start shooting a comedy film this summer.

The 38 year old actress has started working out again and had shared a workout picture on social media a while ago. During a chat with Hindustan Times, she opened up on her fitness journey post motherhood and said, "Getting back to workouts is not just about losing weight or getting fit; it's about rebuilding my strength, stamina and overall well-being. Fitness is a personal journey. And for me, it's a way to feel empowered and stay prepared for the challenges of my craft."

Chadha, known for films like 'Gangs of Wasseypur' (2012) and 'Shakeela' (2020), shares that staying fit is an essential part of her work. "I want to give my best to the next project, which demands me to be in my peak form physically, she added."

The actress known for her diverse on-screen roles, applies the same approach to her fitness routine. She enjoys mixing different forms of exercise, including Kathak, strength training, yoga, and cardio, to keep her workouts engaging and effective.

—ETimes

Suhana twins with mom in ivory

Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani have once again exchanged vows, this time in a traditional Hindu wedding ceremony in Mumbai on Friday night, following their stunning beachside wedding in Goa.

Several well-known faces from the film industry were in attendance, including Aadar's cousins Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, and Karisma Kapoor.

Shah Rukh Khan's daughter, actress Suhana Khan, also attended the wedding. The 'The Archies' actress dazzled in an ivory lehenga, matching her mother, Gauri Khan, who attended the event with her mother, Savita Chibber.

Suhana complemented her ivory lehenga with emerald jewellery, opting for bold eye makeup and keeping her lips in a nude shade. She styled her hair in loose, wavy curls for an elegant touch.

Gauri, on the other hand, looked absolutely stunning in an ivory white gown, accessorized with an emerald necklace. She kept her hair loose and opted for simple makeup. Her mother, Savita Chibber, wore a black saree with golden embroidery.

Veteran star Rekha also graced the event in a striking red and black saree paired with a red blouse, complementing her look with heavy traditional jewellery.

Actress Neetu Kapoor turned heads in a mustard-coloured outfit as she posed alongside her daughter, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, and granddaughter, Samara Sahni. —ANI

Ties that bind

OLAVINA PAYANA
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Kishan Balnad
- **ACTORS** Sunil, Kushi, Priya Hegde, Bala Rajawadi, Sudhakar Bannanje, Padmaja Rao, Nagesh Maiya
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 130 minutes

Kishan Balnad's maiden effort as director in Sandalwood is appreciable. Balnad, who has been associated with Sandalwood for 17 years, only now realised his dream of helming a movie, and he has done it with aplomb. Though the movie is a love story, its narration and twists make it interesting for audiences. It explores the journey of a youth from a middle-class family.

The movie is about Sunil (Sunil), a middle-class youth who falls in love with Vainavi (Kushi), the daughter of Cariappa (Bala Rajawadi), a coffee planter. Cariappa embarrasses Sunil and his parents when they approach him seeking his daughter's hand in marriage. Cariappa challenges Sunil to become somebody in society and earn money. Sunil accepts the challenge and comes to Bengaluru. He not only earns money but also provides jobs to some people. He marries Vainavi. While all is well, Vainavi dies of cardiac arrest. Circumstances compel Sunil to marry Deepika (Priya Hegde). What happens to Sunil and his daughter is what Olavina Payana is all about.

Sunil, known for acting in television serials and a few films, has proved that he too can play a lead role in a movie. His dialogue delivery and gestures are good. Kushi looks gorgeous and has the potential to establish herself as a heroine in Sandalwood if she focuses on her acting career. Priya Hegde is beautiful and has acted well. Bala Rajawadi, veteran director Sudhakar Bannanje, Padmaja Rao, and Nagesh Maiya provide good support.

Had the director ensured the screenplay was crisp, it would have been a better film.

All in all, family audiences may enjoy this film.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Dating buzz

Actor Andrew Garfield, known for his roles in films like 'The Amazing Spider-Man' and 'Tick, Tick... Boom!', has been quietly dating actress Monica Barbaro, a source has confirmed to People magazine.

According to People magazine, Garfield and Barbaro have been spending time together in a low-key manner. "They've been really lowkey and have been spending time together quietly," the source told People magazine.

The two were spotted together at W Magazine's annual Best Performances party in Los Angeles on January 4, alongside Eddie Redmayne and Lynn Hirschberg.

They were also seen sitting together in the audience during a performance of Richard II at the Bridge Theatre on London's West End, starring Jonathan Bailey.

In a video posted on social media, the pair was seen chatting before the show began, dressed casually in baseball caps.

Garfield was previously linked to spiritual reader Kate Tomas, but the two reportedly split "months" before Tomas revealed in October that they were no longer together. He was also previously linked to his 'Amazing Spider-Man' co-star Emma Stone in the 2010s and model Alyssa Miller in 2021-2022. —ANI

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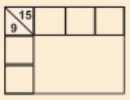
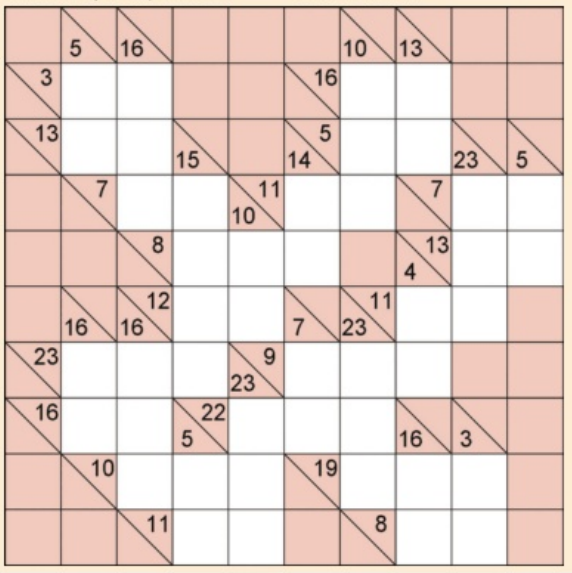
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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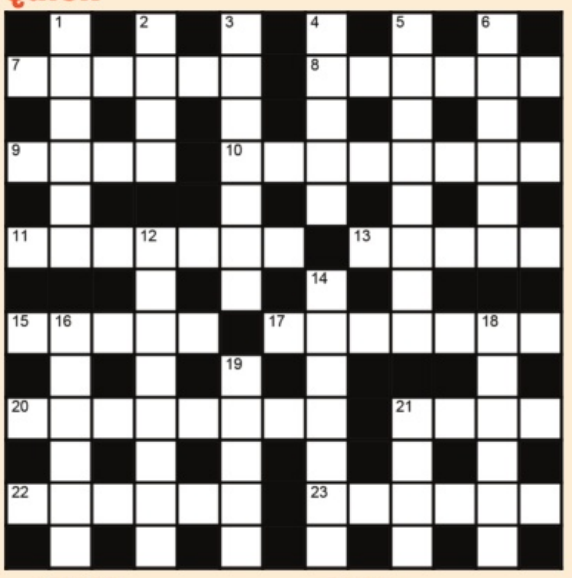


ACROSS

7 Large island in the Pacific (6)
8 Of imposing size (6)
9 Basset hound of comic strips (4)
10 Short amusing tale (8)
11 Oppression, despotism or dictatorship (7)
13 Very bad informally (5)
15 Medicinal tablets (5)
17 An elderly or confirmed spinster (3,4)
20 Purify or sterilize (8)
21 Cover with paper (4)
22 ___ in on : took advantage of, in a way? (6)
23 A high-spirited and romping girl? (6)

DOWN

1 Somewhat ill (6)
2 Author __ Blyton (4)
3 Temple town in Uttara Kannada (7)
4 Regarded lustfully (5)
5 In ___ ___ : Playing well (4,4)
6 Woodwind musical instruments? (6)
12 Very well! (3,5)
14 Canadian province (7)
16 __ __ __ or two : shortly? (2,1,3)
18 Lined up (2,1,3)
19 Types (5)
21 Coward; sissy (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS U

ZMUX IUJN WMWEI BMV ZMUX IUJNGWKL BMV IUJ FBM LARQO B QJMVNWV HBOOKWG XAOQUJO VAGBGOWN.

Linemaro

I am sure your photo is the star of your parents' mantlepiece

Mindchow

Quick to borrow is always slow to pay

Joke of the day

The boozer took careful aim at the bird, but hit a frog. He picked it up, studied it, scratched his head and said, "Well, anyhow I knocked its feathers off."

Loop

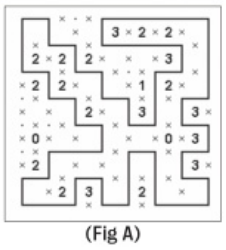
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

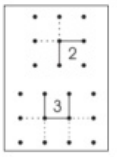
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

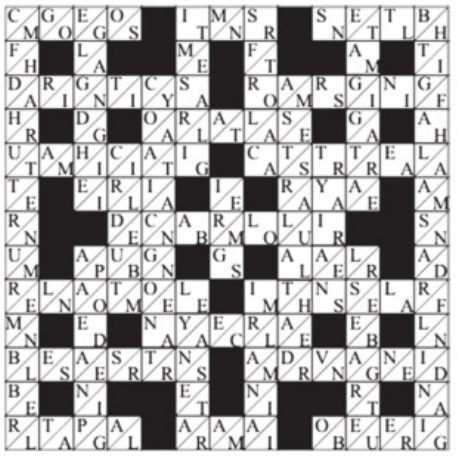


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

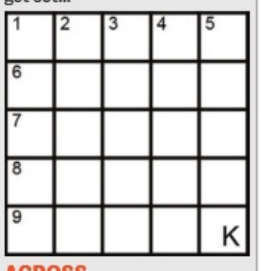
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

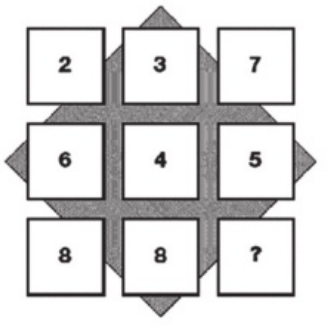
1 Vedas; 6 Inter;
7 Astir; 8 Croat;
9 K nuts

DOWN

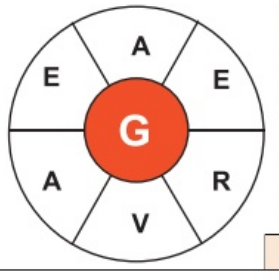
1 Staid; 2 A cent;
3 True V; 4 Roans;
5 Skirt

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last square?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4								1
		6	8		7	2		
8	1						6	5
		3	7	6	5	1		
		1	3	8	4	5		
3	9						4	2
		4	6		9	7		
6								8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 9

2 7 7 7

Medium = 8

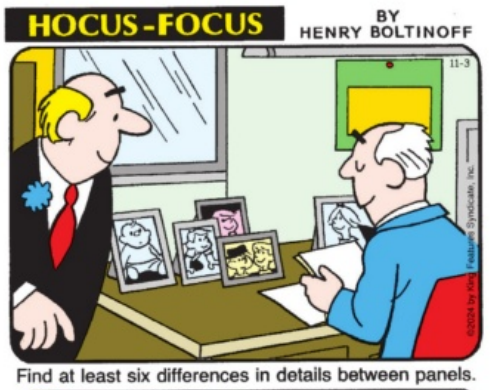
1 6 6 9

Hard = 15

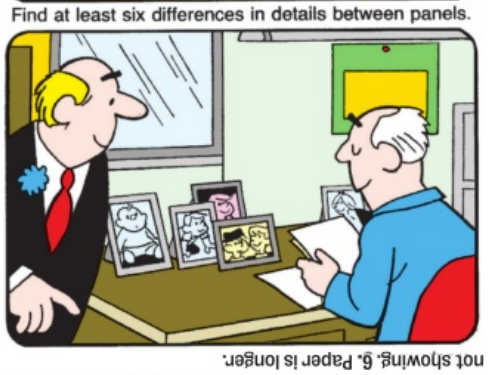
2 5 9 3

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



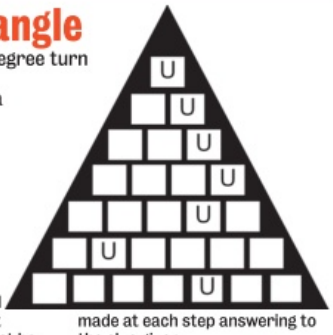
Differences: 1. Frame is smaller. 2. Finger is moved. 3. Desk is wider. 4. Back of chair is different. 5. Shirt collar is not showing. 6. Paper is longer.

Riddler

A man without eyes saw plums on a tree, He didn't take plums nor plums did he leave. How can this be?

Alpha triangle

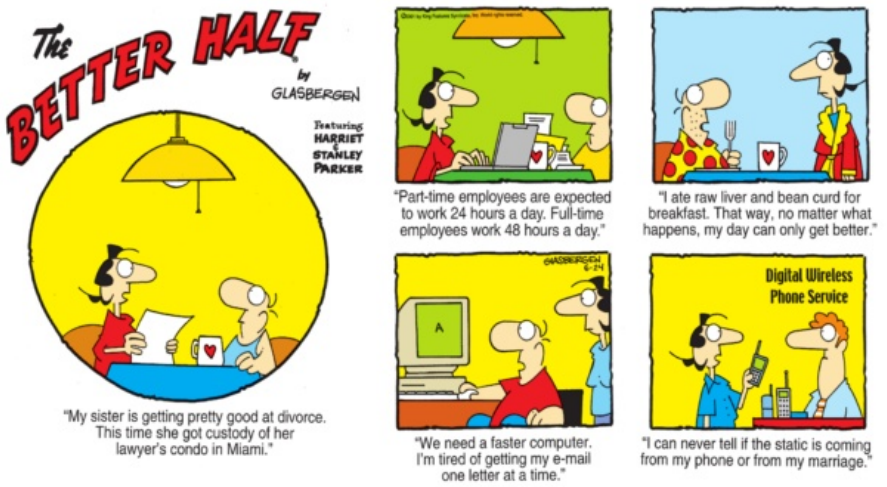
1 Describing a 180 degree turn
2 Lutetium symbol
3 Money of Rumania
4 Stead
5 Intestinal division
6 Breakfast choice
7 Govern badly

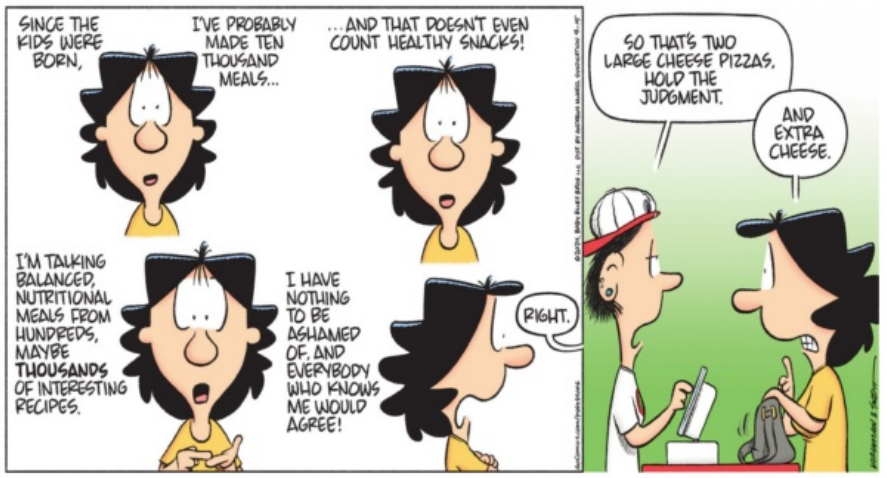


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"My sister is getting pretty good at divorce. This time she got custody of her lawyer's condo in Miami."
"Part-time employees are expected to work 24 hours a day. Full-time employees work 48 hours a day."
"I ate raw liver and bean curd for breakfast. That way, no matter what happens, my day can only get better."
"We need a faster computer. I'm tired of getting my e-mail one letter at a time."
Digital Wireless Phone Service
"I can never tell if the static is coming from my phone or from my marriage."


SINCE THE KIDS WERE BORN,
I'VE PROBABLY MADE TEN THOUSAND MEALS...
...AND THAT DOESN'T EVEN COUNT HEALTHY SNACKS!
I'M TALKING BALANCED, NUTRITIONAL MEALS FROM HUNDREDS, MAYBE THOUSANDS OF INTERESTING RECIPES.
I HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. AND EVERYBODY WHO KNOWS ME WOULD AGREE!
RIGHT.
SO THAT'S TWO LARGE CHEESE PIZZAS, HOLD THE JUDGMENT.
AND EXTRA CHEESE.

FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE 3-6
AS THE TOWER IS ENGULFED IN FLAMES, FLASH AND THORNE ARE AIRLIFTED TO SAFETY.
THANKS FOR THE RIDE! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND WE WOULD'VE BEEN TOAST!
YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR GETTING YOURSELF INTO TROUBLE, MR. GORDON...
...SEEMS LIKE I CAN'T LET YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR FIVE MINUTES!
DALE!
MEANWHILE...
I'M CAPTAIN THORNE! WE HAVE TO GO BACK!
ONE OF MY MEN IS STILL DOWN THERE!
TOO LATE NOW, CAPTAIN!
THE TOWER'S GOIN' DOWN!
BULLOK...
NEXT: THE RITUAL

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a positive day for you. You may achieve success from your hard work on the professional front. You will have good focus and may complete your work ahead of time, whichcan improve your self-confidence. Additionally, expect a work-related short trip, which could be beneficial for expanding your network in the near future.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and as a result, you may expect to receive some inherited assets. On the work front, try to perform with patience as it can increase your efficiency. Be polite and considerate with the people around you. You might find that you need to put in less effort for your day-to-day tasks. Additionally, utilise your communication skills to attract new business opportunities.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may grant you patience. Though you might face some workrelated stress externally, your inner sense may remain calm and cool, helping you to balance everything effectively. You will enjoy every moment in both your work and domestic life. Good news: your parents' health is now okay, and you may also hear some positive news from your siblings.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel unhappy, and some old health issues may resurface, leading to impatience. Be cautious about spending your hard-earned money on buying worthless items. It is advised to control your short temper and avoid unnecessary discussions, especially for love birds, as they may risk facing a potential breakup.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are likely to enjoy both your domestic and professional life. You may become more polite with the people around you, which will help in the smooth completion of your work. Additionally, you may discover new sources of earnings, which will boost your savings. Consider planning for renovating your house or office. If you are working, there are chances of promotions for job natives.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy on the work front, and with the blessings of your elders, you are likely to implement some new innovations in your work. You will maintain an ethical approach and follow rules in your dealings with the people around you, which will give you inner peace and strength.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel satisfied with your responsibilities at work. Consider planning for a short work-related trip. Additionally, visiting a religious place can help maintain inner peace and positivity. Your gurus or mentors may guide you on the right path, providing clarity regarding your goals.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel a bit dull. It is advised to keep your mind cool and re- member the golden rule of thinking twice before any action. You might need to travel to recover your money. Additionally, it is advisable to avoid going on an adventure tour at this time. Students are advised to focus on in-depth study to achieve success in their endeavours.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel good as family harmony brings you happiness. There is a possibility of meeting an influential person who could provide benefits on the work front. You are likely to perform well in your job, and as a result, expect some rewards in the form of promotions. Additionally, the disputes related to inherited property may finally settle down.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may find yourself in a state of self-analysis, which will boost your confidence. Your focus towards your goals is now clear, increasing your chances of achieving success. Your creativity is likely to improve, and you will develop an interest in artifacts, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. As the day ends, you may feel satisfied with your life.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may encounter mixed situations around you. It is advised not to expect too much from anyone, as it may lead to disappointment. Take the day for self-exploration and self-analysis, allowing yourself to go through a process of filtering. After this filtration, you will feel more confident and better prepared to accept challenges.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel some negativity around you, which could make you upset. Your responsibilities might feel burdensome, and you could be in a hurry to complete tasks, leading to silly mistakes. Your working efficiency may slow down, impacting your day-to-day work, and possibly causing delays in your projects, affecting your professional life. You are advised to take advice from your elders.

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Vishnupriya BD, 12 Years, Cormel School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= [(8)·(1/4) ÷ 2·(1/2)]·(1/3)
= [2·(3/4-1/2)]·(1/3)
= [2·(1/4)]·(1/3) = 2·(1/12)

BULL'S EYE
agar, agree, AVERAGE, eager, gave, gear, grave, rage, ravage, verge

FAST FIVE

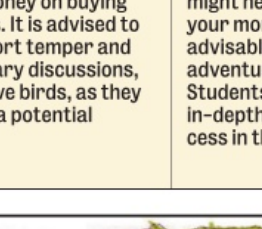
S	T	U	N	K
A	C	T	O	R
T	A	R	S	I
I	N	E	R	T
D	E	V	A	S

QUOTE UNCODE
Know your enemy and know yourself and you can fight a hundred battles without disaster.

STRIKE OUT

R	A	G	A	R	A	I		B	E	R	G	
E		N		E		N			T		N	
B	E	A	S	T	S		A	D	V	A	N	I
M		D		N	A	C	R	E		B		L
E	N	A	M	E		I		T	S	E	L	F
M		P	U	G		S		L	E	R		D
R		E	N	A	M	O	U	R				N
E		L	A		E		A	V	E			A
		L			R							L
T	A	H	I	T	I		A	S	T	R	A	L
R		D	O	R	A	L	S		G		H	
A	R	N	I	C	A		O	A	R	I	N	G
H		A		M		T		M		I		
C	O	G	S		I	N	S		S	E	T	H

QUICK



MENSA PUZZLE
2. Reading each line of the diagram as a 3 digit number, add the top and middle lines together to give the result on the bottom line.

RIDDLER
The man had only one eye and took one plum. (note singular versus plural)

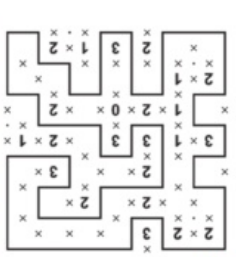
ALPHA TRIANGLE
u, lu, leu, lieu, lieum, Mueslli, Mistrule.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 7 - 7 + 7 = 9
Medium
9 - 6 + 6 - 1 = 8
Hard
9 - 3 / 2 x 5 = 15

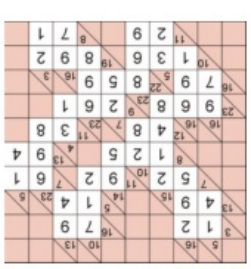
SUDOKU

4	2	9	5	3	6	8	7	1
5	3	6	8	1	7	2	9	4
8	1	7	9	4	2	3	6	5
2	4	3	7	6	5	1	8	9
7	5	8	2	9	1	4	3	6
9	6	1	3	8	4	5	2	7
3	9	5	1	7	8	6	4	2
1	8	4	6	2	9	7	5	3
6	7	2	4	5	3	9	1	8

LOOP



KAKURO



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